



Nov 96

The Pileup

The newsletter of the Carolina DX Association

CDXA CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

The annual CDXA Christmas party, and new-officer-railroading, will be held on November 30 at The Branding Iron restaurant in Rock Hill. Be thinking about your choice for 1997 officers -- President, Vice President and Treasurer.

Plan to arrive at 6:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 7:00. The menu includes garden salad, choice of prime rib or chicken breast, potato, vegetable, bread, dessert and tea / coffee. The price is \$13.50 plus tax and 15% gratuity.

The Branding Iron is located at 3040 Cherry Road, off 21 at Catawba River. RSVP to Roger Burt / N4ZC by any of the following:

147.18 repeater

packetcluster

n4zc@juno.com

telephone: (704) 263 - 1133

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PACKETCLUSTER NEWS

by Roger Burt, N4ZC

There have been a number of changes in our packetcluster system with more planned for the future. First, the changes in place now. DXHKY has been taken off the air since the new K4PC node covers that area. Chris K4PC ex N4YGY has placed his new Boone node on the air. Chris operates his node on 144.99 Mhz at 1200 baud. you connect to this node by first connecting to DXBNE or DXBRK and then connecting to K4PC.

You may feel free to use the node that is best for you but please keep the following in mind. Once you pick the node you want to use, **STAY WITH IT**. It can mess up the system of mail routing and one-liners if you hop back and forth between nodes. Once you've made your choice, **STAY WITH IT UNLESS YOUR NODE GOES OFF THE AIR**. Keep in mind packetcluster works much better if each user on a node can hear the other users on that node frequency. I keep finding people trying to use low power HTs and low antennas to connect to packetcluster. If it was just you and your node, it wouldn't be a problem. If others on the node can't hear you, it slows things for you and every other user on your node. Don't try to connect to nodes outside your area. It slows things down for you and the others on that node. All three nodes share the same DX spots, DX bulletins, Callbook and manager info. There is no reason to change nodes to look up data or to send/receive mail and one-liners. Mail and one-liners sent on any of our nodes go to everyone on the other nodes. There may be cases where the following guide doesn't apply but in general, please follow this guide as to which node to connect to help us make the system as efficient as possible.

K4MD ex WD4R should be used by stations in S.C. Charlotte(south of I-85), Union, Anson and the southern part of Cabarrus counties. K4MD has the digi DXWIN near Wingate NC to help those east and southeast of his QTH connect to his node. Users in northern Mecklenberg, Gaston, Lincoln, Cabarrus, Iredell, Rowan, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, and southern Catawba should try to connect to N4ZC. N4ZC has the digi DXYNG to help those NE of his QTH. There are of course gray areas in the northern part of the N4ZC coverage area but users north of the N4ZC area and on into VA should try to use the K4PC node if possible.

The number of packet users was very small when we first started the packetcluster. It has continued to grow at ever faster rates in the last few years. At the start, there was never a problem with other users in other parts of the Carolinas trying to use the same frequency. Over the years, more and more people have joined the packet world to the point that all packet designated 2 meter frequencies are in use in a number of locations in the Carolinas. Packet communications uses the station TNC to tell your transceiver when to transmit. It doesn't know if the signal it hears is part of our system or part of some other system in use by others just over the horizon. This causes slowdowns and disconnects. It isn't going to get any better on 2 meters as more and more users of packetcluster and BBS systems try to crowd more and more users and systems into the same few 2 meter frequencies. It's going to get worse and worse.

Packetcluster News (cont.)

Since it's clear things are not going to get any better on 2 meters, it's time to move to another band with more frequency space and fewer users. We've thought about both 222 and 440 Mhz as the place to expand into cleaner waters. We've decided to add new user frequencies in the 440 band. There is more equipment, both new and surplus, for this band. Since the longer range plans also call for going to 9600 baud, and none of the 222 Mhz current equipment works on 9600 baud without extensive modification, we've decided to add new 440 frequencies.

N4ZC will use 441.0 Mhz and K4MD will use 441.075 Mhz for users that want to connect to us on these frequencies. These frequencies will, at first, be on 1200 baud. At some time in 1997 we plan to change to 9600 baud. If you plan to move to the 440 band, please make sure you consult with your SYSOP before you buy new equipment to make sure it will fit in with our future 9600 baud growth plans.

Once N4ZC is on the air on 441.0 Mhz, the next step is to add a 441.0 digi at the DXYNG location. The traffic between N4ZC and DXYNG will shift to 441, which will take that traffic off the 144.93 frequency. We will still have 144.93 Mhz at N4ZC and DXYNG but all traffic between the node and digi will be on 441. Once we are sure this is working well, we will change the 441 Mhz frequency from 1200 to 9600 baud. This will provide a fast, more efficient service to those users that switch to the new frequency.

A continuing problem with the system users is the fact that most people are using FM equipment that comes from the factory set for 5 Khz deviation. Packet works better with 3.5 Khz deviation. It has been a problem finding an FM deviation meter that could be hauled around from user to user and also set to the correct test configuration. CDXA has bought a new AEA DM-1 deviation meter. This is a very small crystal-controlled unit that is very easy to set up and use. It is battery-powered and crystal-controlled on 147.9, 222.1 and 444.1 Mhz. You just dial up that frequency on your transceiver, key your rig with a packet signal and adjust your rigs' deviation looking at the LED bar display. Once you have the correct deviation set, you move the transceiver back to your node frequency, ready to go with the correct deviation. We plan to pass this unit from user to user to make sure all users have the correct deviation for their packet station.

(editor's note: Both WD4R and N4YGY have received new callsigns -- thus, the callsigns of their packetcluster nodes will change. Once the callsign changes are in effect, all users MUST log on and set their home nodes to the new callsign.)

Interesting email QSL information server:

If you access email, you can get very fast responses from a large database of QSL information. There are several of these available, but the one that your editor uses almost weekly is:

qsl-info@datasync.com

Send the email to that address, and simply put the callsigns of the stations for which you need the managers in the body of the email. Arrange them one per line, and the server will respond with either the QSL route or an information not found message. This server was formerly at the University of Augsburg in Germany, but is now located here in the States.

CQWW SSB Scores:

The claimed scores are still rolling in, and here are the top Multi/Multi listings so far. Please note the team at **N4ZC SMOKED** the other 4 - land entrants. Way to go guys!

CALL	CLAIMED SCORE	Q'S	PTS	Cty	ZONES
KC1XX	11,017,212	5415	14271	151	621
N2RM	10,943,290	4990	13645	160	642
K3LR	10,581,242	5119	13531	157	625
W3LPL	10,379,586	4873	13007	159	639
K1KI	7,258,166	3627	9902	150	583
KY3N	6,995,142	3628	?	145	548
W1FJ	6,733,585	3376	9592	144	558
N4ZC	6,443,528	3335	?	147	542
AA1AS	6,243,224	3511	9022	147	545
W4MYA	5,618,521	3097	8131	144	547
KS9K	4,817,949	2811	7311	144	515
NQ4I	4,541,284	2901	7118	145	493
N6AW	3,947,928	2621	7284	145	397
W4IY	3,779,790	2430	?	133	482
K3ANS	3,294,720	2093	?	132	453

CDXA Vanity Calls

Numerous CDXA members took advantage of the FCC vanity call system to change calls. Here's a first pass; please provide any updates to Roger/N4ZC:

NEW CALL:

K4KL
K4MA
K4MD
W4MW
K4PC
N4RF
K4SI
N4TC
W4TJE
W4VHF
W4WN
K4ZA
K4ZO
N4ZY
W3NC
W4iU

PREVIOUS CALL:

WA8EHD
KI4HN
WD4R
WB4WTC
N4YGY
AB4AE
WA4SSI
AD4SK
WD4HRM
WA4VCC (only call he requested!)
W5VWN
WZ3Q
AG4L
AB4ZM
WA4LBJ
WB4iUX

CDXA MEMBER SURVEY

Please take this quickie survey, and send the answers to me.**

1. What do you want to see MORE of in The Pileup?
2. What do you want to see LESS of in The Pileup?
3. What do you want to see in The Pileup that you don't see now?
4. What was you most exciting DX thrill, and WHY?

** via any of these methods:

tskelto@ces.clemson.edu

WB4iUX@AOL.COM

W4iU@AOL.COM

Packet

tel 864 / 653 - 8801

mail: 230 Camelot Road, Clemson, SC 29631

UPCOMING CONTESTS

(tnx to WA7BNM -- check CQ, QST, <http://www.contesting.com> for details)

November, 1996 (U.S hams should note that CQWW is before Thanksgiving)

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW, 2100Z, Nov 16 - 0100Z, Nov 17

CQ Worldwide Contest, CW, 0000Z, Nov 23 - 2400Z, Nov 24

December, 1996

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 6 - 1600Z, Dec 8

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 14 - 2400Z, Dec 15

Stew Perry Distance Challenge (160) 1500Z, Dec 28 - 1500Z, Dec 29

RAC Canada Winter Contest 0000Z - 2359Z, Dec 29

January, 1997

Japan Int.DX Contest, 160-40m 2200Z, Jan 10 - 2200Z, Jan 12

North Amer. QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 11 - 0600Z, Jan 12

North Amer. QSO Party, Phone 1800Z, Jan 18 - 0600Z, Jan 19

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1900Z, Jan 18 - 0400Z, Jan 20

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 24 - 1600Z, Jan 26

REF Contest, CW 0600Z, Jan 25 - 1800Z, Jan 26

UBA Contest, Phone 1300Z, Jan 25 - 1300Z, Jan 26

February, 1997

Delaware QSO Party Feb 1 - Feb 2

Dutch PACC Contest 1200Z, Feb 8 - 1200Z, Feb 9

RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z, Feb 8 - 0100Z, Feb 9

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z - 0359Z, Feb 9

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Feb 15 - 2400Z, Feb 16

CQ 160-Meter Contest, Phone 2200Z, Feb 21 - 1600Z, Feb 23

North Carolina QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 22 - 2400Z, Feb 23

REF Contest, SSB 0600Z, Feb 22 - 1800Z, Feb 23

UBA Contest, CW 1300Z, Feb 22 - 1300Z, Feb 23

RGSB 7 MHz DX Contest, CW 1500Z, Feb 22 - 0900Z, Feb 23

March, 1997

RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW 1200Z, Mar 8 - 1200Z, Mar 9

Bermuda Contest 0001Z, Mar 15 - 2400Z, Mar 16

BARTG WW RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 15 - 0200Z, Mar 17

Russian DX Contest 1200Z, Mar 15 - 1200Z, Mar 16

Virginia QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 15 - 0500Z, Mar 16 and 1100Z, Mar 16 - 0200Z, Mar 17

Alaska QSO Party 0000Z, Mar 22 - 2400Z, Mar 23

CQWW WPX Contest, Phone 0000Z, Mar 29 - 2400Z, Mar 30

ON THE BANDS....DX NEWS

(Thanks to QRZ DX, our packetcluster and the '425 DX News' from Italy.)

3B9 - Cancelled

5R - Gerard F2JD/5R8EN is gone QRT and is back in France.

5V - The activity from Togo is for CQWW CW Contest (23-24 November). Ten operators will enter the multi-multi category with six stations and 17 antennas. The new call to be used during the contest is 5V7A (QSL via GM4AGL).

5X - Until 28 November Dave (KE4EW/P29DK, QSL via KE4EW) and Dale QSL via WB3DNA) will join Paul (5X4F, QSL via K3SW) in remote northeastern Uganda. They will participate in the CQWW CW Contest as 5X4F.

FH - From 9 to 27 November Denise, F6HWU will be active (mainly in CW and probably in RTTY also) as FH/F6HWU.

FR/T - Jacky, FR5ZU/T is active on SSB from Tromelin. QSL via FR5ZU.

FT_Z - Next week Eric, F5ICB will be moving to Amsterdam (AF-002), from where he will be active for 4 months at least.

HS - WA0RJY plans to be active /HS0 for CQWW CW.

J6 - From 19 November to 1 December WB8ENR/J68AE, WD8IXE/J68AG, AC0S/JS8AH 8QID/J68AK, K9BQL/J68AR, N9AG/J68AS and W9UI/J68ER will be active from St. Lucia. They plan to participate in CQWW CW Contest using the call J6DX. Outside of the Contest they will be particularly active on WARC bands (CW, SSB and RTTY).

J8 - From 12 to 25 November Gert, DL7VOG will be active (mainly CW and RTTY) as J87GU.

PA - PA3ASC reports that PA amateurs can now operate on 160 metres from 1.810 to 1.850 MHz.

S7 - S79MAD will remain active from Seychelles until August 1997. Paddy works mainly on 20 meters SSB, CW and RTTY and on 40 metres SSB and CW.

SP_ssh - Starting on December and for 1997 Mark, SP3GVX will be active (also via satellite and on SSTV) from the station HF0POL located at the Antarctic Polish Base Henryk Arctowski (WABA SP-01) on King George Isl. (62.10S 58.32W). Operations will take place mainly on the low bands. QSL via SP3FYM.

UA - U1ZA/A is active (mainly CW) from Kil'din Island (EU-082).

UA_ant - Valentin, UW1ZC, is active as R1ANZ from Russian Antarctic base Saam Mirny (WABA UA-07), located on the Guillaume II Coast (66.33S-93.01E) Look for him on 14.150/14.140 MHz between 16 and 18 UTC. QSL via UW1ZC.

DX News (cont.)

VK0_ Heard Island - On 10 October the second of two 20-ft. containers of gear was shipped from Oakland to Reunion Island, the departure point for the expedition. The gear includes complete life support for 20 persons for the three-week stay on Heard Island, plus all the equipment for five complete radio operating on all HF bands, RTTY, and amateur satellite. The team will assemble on Reunion Island during the last week of December. On 3 January 1997 they will leave aboard the "Marion Dufresne" for a 10-day sail to Crozet and then Heard Island. The stations will come on the air on or before 15 January, using the callsign VK0IR.

The total cash budget for the expedition is US\$ 320,000 dollars (almost 2/3 of this cost is transportation to Heard Island). As of mid-October about US\$ 260,000 has been raised or is guaranteed. Donations are greatly appreciated and are not at risk. The expedition team is taking all financial responsibility until the expedition is completed. Should the project fail due to other than an Act of God, the donors monies will be returned. Donations are gratefully accepted via one of the following addresses:

* Heard Island DXpedition, c/o Bob Allphin (K4UEE), 4235 Blackland Dr., Marietta, GA 30067 USA

* Heard Island DXpedition, c/o Peter Casier (ON6TT), Oude Heerbaan 30B-9230 Wetteren, Belgium

* NCDXF, P.O. Box 2368, Stanford, CA. 94309-2368, USA.

VP5 - Dave, WD5N will be active as VP5EA in CQWW CW Contest and as VP5/WD5N for a few days before and after the contest. QSL via WD5N (whose new address is: David S. Harper, 103 Osage Dr., Leander, TX 78641, USA) also through the bureau.

VP8_fal- For the next two years Brian, ZD7BJ will be active on SSB from the Falklands as VP8CWN. Look for him on 14.240 MHz at about 20 UTC, when he is often in QSO with his wife (ZD7XY).

XZ - Myanmar -- the door squeaks open again. Major CQWW CW effort with FT-1000MPs, KWs, yagis, and phased verticals for the low bands. If you need XZ for a new one or zone 26 you need to BE THERE! This is the best chance you will have for zone 26 on 80 meters in many moons.

Friends and neighbors, that's it for this installment. I hope to meet all of you at the Christmas party at the end of this month, and that we will be talking about the great conditions we had for CQWW CW. In particular, I really want to get in the XZ log on 80 CW for that terribly difficult QSO from this part of the country. Hope all of you get your wishes, too. After all, it is the holiday season, right?

73 and gud DX! Tom Skelton, W4IU (ex-WB4IUX)

Tom W4IU